

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 2870 and 2898**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**212th LEGISLATURE**

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ADOPTED MAY 15, 2006

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**SYNOPSIS**

Makes it a disorderly persons offense to purposely disrupt funeral through certain conduct.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on June 22, 2006.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/27/2006)

1   **AN ACT** concerning the disruption of funerals and supplementing  
2       Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7       1. The Legislature finds and declares:

8       a. Families have a substantial interest in attending funeral  
9 services for their loved ones;

10       b. The interests of families in privately and peacefully mourning  
11 the loss of their relatives are violated when funerals are targeted for  
12 disruption, picketing and other demonstrations;

13       c. Such disruption causes emotional disturbance and distress to  
14 grieving families; and

15       d. It is in the interest of the State of New Jersey to protect  
16 families' privacy immediately prior to, during and after a funeral  
17 service.

18

19       2. a. As used in this act <sup>1</sup>**[,]** <sup>1</sup>:

20       “funeral” means the ceremonies, processions and memorial  
21 services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the  
22 dead<sup>1</sup> ; and

23       “demonstration” includes the following:

24       (1) any picketing or similar conduct,

25       (2) any oration, speech, use of sound amplification equipment or  
26 device, or similar conduct that is not part of a funeral,

27       (3) the display of any placard, banner, flag, or similar device,  
28 unless such a display is part of a funeral, or

29       (4) the distribution of any handbill, pamphlet, leaflet, or other  
30 written or printed matter other than a program distributed as part of  
31 a funeral<sup>1</sup>.

32       b. A person is guilty of disrupting a funeral if, during the period  
33 beginning one hour prior to the scheduled commencement of a  
34 funeral, and until one hour following the actual completion of the  
35 funeral, <sup>1</sup>**[he]** with the purpose of causing inconvenience,  
36 annoyance or alarm to the funeral or its participants, or of  
37 recklessly creating the risk thereof, the person<sup>1</sup> knowingly:

38       (1) obstructs, hinders, impedes or blocks another person's entry  
39 to or exit from the funeral, the funeral procession, the funeral home,  
40 church, synagogue, temple or other place of public worship <sup>1</sup>or  
41 other location at which a funeral takes place as part of  
42 demonstration activities<sup>1</sup>, or

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Senate floor amendments adopted June 22, 2006.

- 1
- (2) engages in <sup>1</sup>~~["picketing or other protest"]~~ demonstration<sup>1</sup>
- 2
- activities within 500 feet of the funeral, the funeral procession, the
- 3
- funeral home, church, synagogue, temple or other place of public
- 4
- worship <sup>1</sup>or other location at which a funeral takes place and makes
- 5
- or assists in the making of noise, diversions, or threatening gestures,
- 6
- or engages in any other disruptive conduct, that disrupts or tends to
- 7
- disrupt the peace or good order of the funeral<sup>1</sup>.
- 8
- c. Disrupting a funeral is a disorderly persons offense.
- 9
- 10
3. This act shall take effect immediately.